

Pronounce It Right

In a recent reading through the book of Judges, I noticed something very interesting – that I never gave thought to before...

Judges 12:6 Then said they unto him, Say now Shibboleth: and he said Sibboleth: for he could not frame to pronounce it right.

Why this stood out to me, in this particular read-through, might be that I myself have been paying attention lately to trying to “pronounce it right” as I’m reading God’s word(s).

This one simple phrase, “pronounce it right,” reminds me of the fact that in the Hebrew tongue, God had to have given his written word to Moses and to all of the “old testament” scribes with vowel points. It is by the vowel points in Hebrew that God revealed to his Hebrew-speaking people from the beginning how to pronounce it right.

Note well that Jesus the Word of God is also Alpha and Omega. He is inseparable from his words and the letters of his words. If the letters are changed, so are the words that those letters form. Jesus also cares about the very jots and tittles that are part of the letters of his words (Matthew 5:18). In his word in Hebrew, the jots and tittles include his vowel points given from the beginning. Without the vowel points, the words could be changed. Text critics desire to change God’s words, and therefore falsely claim that vowel points were added later. That way, the text critics free themselves to go back to a fictitious time “before” vowel points were given and make up their own vowel pointings so as to change certain words to their own liking. Just one example (and there are many) is Psalm 22:16, wherein a deletion of God’s given vowel points, and then a change to vowel points desired by the text critics, results in the words being changed ...

from: **they pierced** my hands and my feet

to: **like a lion** my hands and my feet

... eliminating from the psalm the connection of this prophecy to the crucifixion of our Lord.

Believer, beware.

What I notice from Judges 12:6 is a principle. The principle is that the LORD would have us that read his word, in English – the KJB, to ...

pronounce it right (Judges 12:6)... ... for **I** have pronounced the word, saith the LORD. Jeremiah 34:5

(You might think that the meaning of the word in Jeremiah is that of pronouncing judgment (and it is) – but to pronounce right judgment, it is essential that the judge pronounce it right.)

Pronounce it right...

Here are just a few words of scripture that I myself have either mis-pronounced in the past, or have heard others mis-pronounce...

Word	<i>Wrong</i>	Right	
grievous	<i>GREE-veee-us</i>	GREE'-vus	<u>griev-ous</u> ... not griev-i-ous (not griev'-eee-ous)
covetous	<i>co-VET-you-us</i>	CUH'-vet-us	<u>covet-ous</u> ... not covet-u-ous (not ... co-vet'-you-ous)
Lydda	<i>LIE-da</i>	LID'-da	<u>Lydda</u> ... not Lyda (not ... Lie'-da)

Word	Wrong	Right	
Lystra	LIE-stra	LIS'-tra	
Ephraim	EH-fray-im	EE'-frah-im	
Manasseh	Ma-NASS-uh	Ma-NASS'-ee	

And, of course, there are the more ... grievous ... mis-pronouncings – for example:

Wrong	Right	
Day Star	Lucifer	Isaiah 14:12
very religious	too superstitious	Acts 17:22
demon	devil	various verses
Hades	hell	various verses
Joshua	Jesus	Acts 7:45
Yahweh	JEHOVAH	four verses

Sure, demon (from the Greek daimon) would be pronounced like “demon” in Greek...

And, Hades (from the Greek Hades) would be pronounced like “Hades” in Greek...

But a word to the text critic (in case a text critic is reading this): we are reading English; not Greek...

And we that believe God’s word (we non-text-critics) believe that God interpreted his word into English...

And that in English, the book of the LORD (Isaiah 34:16) is the Authorized Version – the “King James Bible.”

More on Hebrew vowel points... without them, a word such as “Dbrh” in Joshua 21:28 could be mis-pronounced as Dëb’ö-räh, instead pronounced rightly as Dăb’-ă-rēh.

“Dabareh” ◀ דַּבַּרְתָּ eb dluow herabaD os ,tfel-ot-thgir sdaer ,esruoc fo ,werbeH

“Deborah” ◀ דִּבְרָה eb dluow harobeD ,tfel-ot-thgir sdaer werbeH ecnis ,niagA

The last letter (the left-most) in each of the above Hebrew words is different, but yet similar. The difference would be an ending sound of a “kh” (a throaty sound that does not have a counterpart in English words), versus an “h” (silent, or a nearly silent out-breath sound).

All of the vowel points, and all of the small extensions of the letters, constitute the jots and tittles in Hebrew, to which Jesus referred when he said...

...Till heaven and earth pass, one **jot** or one **tittle** shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. (Matthew 5:18)

It should be noted that this statement by Jesus is definitive proof that he was referring to the Hebrew scriptures and NOT to the so-called Greek “Septuagint” that the text critics love so dearly. The “Septuagint” – also known as the “LXX” – is found in three main manuscripts (Vaticanus, Sinaiticus, Alexandrinus), all of which are written in ALLCAPS and do not have jots and tittles. (Worse yet, they contain Apocryphal books interspersed throughout them – books which Jesus the Word (the Author of the book of the LORD) and the disciples and the early church rejected. Therefore, contrary to a favorite claim of text critics, Jesus and the disciples and the early “new testament” church did not use the “Septuagint.” They used the Hebrew text as it had been preserved (with the jots and tittles). And when God interpreted his word into other tongues (e.g., Greek) he included the “jots and tittles” pertaining to those other tongues.

The book of the LORD given to the English-speaking world in these last days – the Authorized Version (the KJB; the one and only perfect English interpretation given to us today by the only perfect Interpreter) – contains English jots and tittles...(vowels, and for some words, pronunciation marks) so that **in English we** can pronounce it right.